Crisis in the Silk Industry of Assam

3844. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Assam is traditionally rich and famous in silk industry;

(b) whether Government are also aware that of late this industry is facing untold hardship for want of raw material and are likely to be closed down; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to streamline this traditional industry of Assam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The overall production of raw silk in the State of Assam has in creased from a level of 422 metric tonnes in the year 1990-91 to 469 metric tonnes in 1992-93 and there have been no com plaints about its shortage in the State.

(c) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government, the Central Silk Board has established a network of its units for extending the necessary research, extension, infrastructural and training sup port for development of sericulture indus-tiy in the State. Besides, the CSB is also implementing a pilot sericulture project in the State under the World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project.

Closure of Powerloom Units

3845. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that out of about 13 lakh powerloom units in the country about 75-80 of these units are facing closure;

(b) if so, the break-up of such units, state-wise, and also the workers likely to be adversely affected as a result of the closure;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have come out with a plan to revive these units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) It is not correct that 75-80 percent of powerloom units are facing closure.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

CAG's Report on Financial Powers of Central Silk Board

3846. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in its report No. 15 of 1993 (for the year ending 1992), has made any comments on the financial powers of the Central Silk Board and its Senior Executive Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) In his report, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has observed that while there has been a steady increase in the annual expenditure of the Central Silk Board over the years, the financial powers of the Board and its Chief Executive have not been revised.

The obove observation has been taken note for suitably enhancing the financial powers of the Central Silk Board and its senior officers.

वस्त्रों पर आधारित हस्तशिल्प

3847. श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हस्तशिल्प निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद विदेशों को और विशेष रूप से जापान को वस्त्र आधारित हस्तशिल्प के निर्यात में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि करने में सक्षम रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो 1992-93 और 1993-94 के दौरान परिषद द्वारा प्राप्त किये गये निर्यात आर्डरों का ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश के हस्तशिल्प कारीगरों द्वारा तैयार किये गए कुल कितने माल का निर्यात किया ; और

(घ) इस सम्बन्ध में वर्ष 1994-95 के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी) : (क) तथा (ख) हस्तशिल्प निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद एक संवर्धनात्मक निकाय है । इस लिए यह सीधे निर्यात नहीं करती है । तथापि, यह जापान सहित विभिन्न देशों में हस्तशिल्प के निर्यातों को बढ़ाने में सहायता करती है । वर्ष 1993-94 के दौरान वस्त्र आधारित हस्तशिल्पों का जापान को दिए गए निर्यात के आंकड़े अभी उपलब्ध नहीं है । तथापि, पिछले दो वर्षों अर्थात् 1991-92 और 1992-93 के दौरान उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के अनुसार वस्त्र आधारित हस्तशिल्प का जापान को किए गए निर्यात के मूल्य नीचे दिए गए हैं :–

वर्ष	मूल्य (करोड़ रु० में)
1991-92 . . .	6.79
1992-93 . . .	9.41

हस्तशिल्प निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद द्वारा यह अनुमान लगाया गया है कि वर्ष 1993-94 के दौरान जापान को वस्त्र आधारित हस्तशिल्प के हुए निर्यातों में मूल्य के अनुसार लगभग 30 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है ।

(ग) चूंकि हस्तशिल्प के निर्यातों के राज्यवार आंकड़े नहीं रखे जाते हैं, इसलिए यह जानना संभव नहीं है कि मध्य प्रदेश राज्य से वस्त्र आधारित हस्तशिल्पों का निर्यात कितना हुआ है ।

(घ) हस्तशिल्प निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद द्वारा जापान को निर्यात किए जाने वाले वस्त्र आधारित हस्तशिल्प के लिए 1994-95 के दौरान 19.2 करोड़ रु० का लक्ष्य रखा गया है ।

Modified Garment Export Policy

3848. SHRI SOM PAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what objectives the modified policy of garment export is expected to serve;

(b) whether Government are aware of the reports of tax concessions to exporters being misused for money laundering;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to check the malpractices; and

(d) if not, whether Government would try to find out such incidents and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The current Long Term Garment Export Entitlement Distribution Policy (1994-96) (Quota Policy) which is designed to be exporter friendly aims at encouraging increased unit value realisation for quota items simplification of procedures both relating to quota distribution as well as utilisation, greater transparency in the quota policy and effective measures for prevention of malpractices.

(b) to (d) The quota policy does not deal with tax concessions. Tax Concessions to exporters are mainly in the shape of deductions from income under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act. 100% of export profits, as defined in the Income Tax Act, are exempt from tax. Such deductions are allowed on the basis of evidence produced by the exporters.

Golden hand-shake for workers of sick textile mills in Maharashtra

3849. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has proposed to offer a golden handshake to the workers of the sick textile mills in that State going on voluntary retirement at the rate fixed for workers of the NTC mills, to be paid out of the National Renewal Fund;

(b) if so, what is the precise proposal and the estimated amount involved in the scheme; and

(c) what is Government's derision thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

हथकरघा विकास केन्द्र और रंगाई (डाईंग) एककों की स्थापना

3850. श्री बीरेन जे० शाह : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार द्वारा हथकरघा उद्योग के विकास और विस्तार के लिए देशभर में